

**Virginia Department of Health  
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #18  
July 31, 2006**

**WORLDWIDE UPDATE:**

- This week the World Health Organization updated its tally of human H5N1 influenza to 232 cases and 134 deaths (57.8%). The only case added this week was a 17 year old from Thailand who succumbed to the illness. This is Thailand's first case reported in 2006. The human illness coincides with an H5N1 outbreak in animals in the province, and the ill individual had buried carcasses of dead chickens. Health officials in the area are working to control the animal outbreak and have strengthened surveillance for illness among humans.

**VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office**

- Central Office received a call from the U.S. Dept. of Education (DOE). One of their staff saw the segment VDH did on pandemic flu preparedness with PBS' Perspectives. The DOE representative mentioned that HHS has asked for their assistance in developing pandemic flu communications. He expressed interest in using our pandemic flu DVD and PBS segment as examples of best practices. DOE also has agreed to share information about their pandemic flu communications planning with VDH.
- State Emergency Planning Coordinator participated in a Federal Reserve Bank, system-wide tabletop exercise at the Richmond Fed. Their planning, preparations and exercise design / management are models for ANY organization to emulate.
- State Emergency Planning Coordinator met with DOD reps at Ft Monroe. They are standing up a DOD PanFlu Task Force and expressed interest in joint planning and exercise participation with VDH, as have many military installations, statewide.
- Operation Iron Terminus, a full-scale exercise involving the CDC's Division of Strategic National Stockpile (DSNS) and Virginia, Colorado and Washington (state), was conducted on June 23 - 25, 2006. While the Virginia portion of this event centered on a biological terrorist incident in Central Virginia, SNS deployment and management has obvious impact on PanFlu preparedness. CDC deployed a Technical Advisory Response Unit, Push Pack and Managed Inventory into the Commonwealth. These resources were transported real-time from their normal federal storage locations to an area airport, and then to the Central Region's primary SNS warehouse. Operation Iron Terminus focused on the response, decision-making processes, integration and coordination among the DSNS, Public Health Departments and Emergency Management agencies. Many positives were noted: The elapsed time from arrival of the first shipment of product at the warehouse, to when the last truck was offloaded, was about 1 hour and 15 minutes. Total elapsed time from when the product landed at the airport to when it was completely offloaded at the warehouse was less than three hours. This excellent time indicates a successful response strategy is in place, and coordination among State Agencies, our airport and private carrier partners continues to improve.
- Upcoming Regional and Local PanFlu Summits are scheduled as follows:
 

Loudoun	August 10
Near SW Region	August 22
Hampton Roads	August 22
Eastern Shore	August 8
Middle Peninsula	August 1
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

## VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

### **VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Reports**

- **Nothing Reported**

### **VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Report**

- **Arlington**

- Arlington County Manager and Public Health Director co-wrote an op-ed piece for the Washington Times titled "Coping With A Flu Pandemic," which ran on Friday, July 21, 2006. The focus of the op-ed piece was what businesses and nonprofit organizations (large and small) need to prepare themselves for a pandemic.

- **Chesterfield**

- Local advisory committee meeting held in Powhatan.
- Second meeting of the Chesterfield local advisory committee held.
- Health Educators presented at 2 local physicians' offices, a nursing home, and the headquarters of a local grocery chain.
- Director presented on PanFlu at a meeting of contingency planners.
- Director presented at a meeting of the Chesterfield Board of Supervisors.
- Meeting of the district PanFlu education committee.
- Health Educators canvassed at local physicians' offices and distributed packets with information on planning for and responding to a pandemic.
- Health Educators have scheduled 19 PanFlu presentations over the next month.

- **Cumberland Plateau**

- Planner communicated daily with local counterparts in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia to follow-up on requests from the Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit for additional information, next meeting dates, and opportunities to learn more about pandemic influenza plans.
- Planner participated in the pandemic influenza planning meeting with Russell County Emergency Management emphasizing the importance of coordinating planning efforts with the upcoming local pandemic influenza meetings.

- **Lord Fairfax (Winchester Area)**

- District presented an educational conference on Avian Influenza to 140+ at the 4-H Center in Front Royal. Dr. Bill Pierson of VA Tech vet school spoke on avian influenza in poultry (including a review of the 2002 outbreak in the Shenandoah Valley). Director discussed human avian influenza A H5N1; Dr. Jonathan Sleeman, Vet for the Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries discussed wild fowl and avian influenza; NW Region Industrial Hygienist discussed respiratory protection and influenza. Attendees included the new VDH Veterinary Epidemiologist and the USDA Regional poultry specialist Dr. Quinn who came up from North Carolina for the presentations and to be introduced to the audience. The audience included local veterinarians, physicians, infectious control nurses, animal control officers, US Forest Service personnel, State Arboretum staff, elected officials, the general public and others. The NW Regional Office of EPR supported this program - the Regional Planner helped with preparation and the Regional Trainer served as M.C.. Written evals and informal comments were positive.

- **Norfolk**

- Director met with the head of the newly constituted Norfolk Police Department Division of Homeland Security. Discussion of opportunities for organizational mutual support, including pandemic influenza activities.

- Director and Regional MD Consultant presented at the EVMS Department of Pediatrics Grand Rounds on Disaster Planning and Pandemic Influenza. Following the presentation, Director and Dr. Donald Lewis, Chair of Pediatrics, reviewed planning to date.
- The VDH Pandemic Influenza DVD has been viewed by all public school health nurses and supervisors, with discussion.
- Department HealthWatch, a monthly show on city cable Channel 48, taped a program on vaccines, and on pandemic influenza. This will show for approximately three weeks, twice daily.
- **Piedmont**
  - Meeting with Hampden-Sydney to discuss a dispensing site drill to be held on campus for September.
  - Meeting with representatives of the Farmville Area Minister's Association (FAMA) in which we discussed ways of disseminating influenza information through faith-based groups.
  - Meeting with Community Service Board to discuss ways of partnering to disseminate information regarding an influenza pandemic.
  - Farmville Local Emergency Planning Committee met and continued discussions on PanFlu plans focusing on hospital related issues.
- **Thomas Jefferson (Charlottesville / Albermarle Area)**
  - PanFlu work groups continue meeting and identifying additional members.
  - District held first pandemic influenza coordinating council meeting. Director presented pandemic influenza training program for coordinating council members.
  - Pandemic Influenza health educator developed draft PanFlu educational materials.
  - Pandemic Influenza plan coordinator developed draft business plan template.
  - Director and PanFlu plan coordinator participated in county PanFlu planning meeting.
  - PanFlu plan coordinator and emergency planner participated in city administrator meeting to review planning progress to date and types of support health district can provide.
- **West Piedmont**
  - Henry-Martinsville Pandemic Influenza Planning Group met at the Henry County Public Safety Training Center. Several agencies shared their draft Pandemic Flu plans. CDC's FluSurge 2.0 was used to demonstrate the impact that a pandemic of influenza might have on our local community.
  - District Staff participated in the Southwest Regional Pandemic Influenza Table Top drill. The participants agreed that emphasis needs to be placed on staff education and training. Staff also noted that community awareness and education will be vital in our communities' ability to cope with a pandemic.
  - Epidemiologist attended an Introduction to ArcGIS training class at Virginia Tech. The ability to map illnesses and other demographic information will provide a visual representation of disease trends and movement, which may prove useful during a pandemic.
  - Franklin County Pandemic Influenza Planning Group met at Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital. Attendees watched the "Pandemic Flu" video created by the Virginia Department of Health and discussed potential issues that the community will face during an influenza pandemic. A second meeting is tentatively scheduled for September.
  - District Epidemiologist and Planner were invited by the Virginia Employment Commission to speak at the local Employee Advisory Committee meeting. Attendees

- watched the VDH “Pandemic Flu” video and discussed issues that employers may face during a pandemic.
- Nurse Supervisor and Epidemiologist taught a training course through Henry County DPS for Henry-Martinsville Fire and EMS. The training session included an infectious disease update component and an introduction to Pandemic Influenza preparedness.